



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

January 26, 2007

## *News from the Chief*

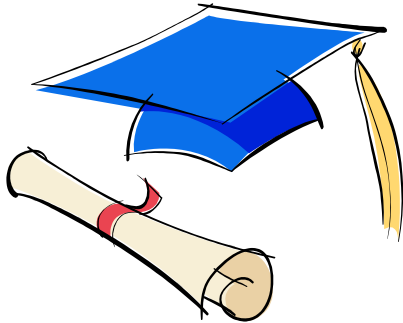
I am absolutely delighted that a record 171 men and women from 12 states are scheduled to take the civil service exam and our physical abilities test tomorrow morning (the most ever in one day) in their quest to become police officers. Twelve members of the group are police professionals from other areas who have expressed a desire to work here.

Please know that every day recruitment and staffing are on my mind. Lieutenant Michele Donegan and her staff are working hard to make 2007 a recruiting success. They are visiting college campuses and are contacting private employers who are downsizing their workforces. We anticipate four recruit classes this year, in February, April, July, and October. In fact, I have just learned our February class will start with 22 police trainees. Help is on the way! We are looking to hire the best officers possible...and YOU are our best recruiters of persons who can stand side by side with you as professional police officers. Please pass the word that we're hiring every day. I thank all of you who have stepped up and been counted as contributors to our great success.

Thank you for all that you do every day to make Nashville a safer place. I also want to thank your family and friends who support you in your service. Over the past three years, we have built many new and strong partnerships with members of our community. Our city believes in you, and you are doing amazing work. Please keep it up, and encourage the new officers who will be joining us this year to also make a difference. It is the support that we have earned, and work to maintain, that will help us sustain the best pay, benefits, equipment, and growth of employees over the next two to five years.

I am proud to be a member of the Metropolitan Police Department and to work with such fine men and women as you.

## **Happenings**



Forty-eight persons from neighborhoods throughout Nashville graduated January 16 from the 19th session of the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizen Police Academy. Mayor Purcell and Chief Serpas were on hand to congratulate the graduates. The 48 graduates, including ten volunteer police chaplains, spent ten weeks learning about the inner-workings of the police department. Topics included community policing, drug & prostitution enforcement, officer survival/use of force, traffic & DUI enforcement, workplace violence, and the judicial process.

Since its beginning in 1995, 832 persons have completed the police department's Citizen Police Academy. Diana Page (class member) spoke at the ceremony:

***I think it is safe to say that each of us learned something new about the people and policies of the MNPd during our ten- week odyssey, and if we take nothing else with us, we take away a renewed respect for the dedication, devotion, and integrity of each police department representative we have encountered along the way.***

Bobby Sasser (class member) also spoke at the ceremony:

***I want to convey to you that I am very impressed with the way all of you have reached out to us in the community. The Academy is a class act! You are to be commended on the good job you are doing.***



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, MNPD Volunteer Chaplain Pastor J.D. Boyd, and Mayor Bill Purcell**



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Michelle Crowder, Carmen Sanders, and Mayor Bill Purcell**

Lieutenant James Stephens, Strategic Development Division, and Sergeant Kim Forsyth, South Precinct, graduated from the Southeastern Command & Leadership Academy, January 19. Lieutenant Stephens received the highly regarded Law Enforcement Innovation Innovator Award for his efforts at the academy.

The Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA) is a dynamic seven-week law enforcement leadership and management program designed for progressive and innovative police managers. SECLA prepares mid and upper-level supervisory personnel for the increased responsibility of administrative command positions by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful leadership in their agency and community. The course requires 280 hours of in-class instruction.



**Pictured (l-r) are Lieutenant Stephens and SECLA Law Enforcement Innovative Center Program Manager, Mike Hill.**





**Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Mary H. Jinks, Assistant Vice President of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, Sergeant Forsyth, and Dr. John D. Petersen, President of the University of Tennessee.**

Once again, the dedicated and compassionate employees that make up the MNPd have done themselves proud. As a result, the department received the MECCC Awards for Total Contributions by a Jumbo Department and the Mayor's Award for a Jumbo Department. I have always believed that the people who seek employment here are drawn by the desire to help others. One of the many ways this is demonstrated is by the unselfishness that is evident in your giving to the MECCC. The result of that unselfishness is a blessing to many people that has much more of an impact in their lives than we could ever know. As the department's MECCC Coordinator, I just wanted to express my gratitude to each of you, and congratulate you for the second year in a row for a job well done.

Lt. Gary L. Goodwin  
MECCC Coordinator  
Metro Nashville Police Department

## **The Precinct News**

### **Hermitage**

Officer Jeb Johnston and his partner Officer Matthew Stevenson arrested one of Hermitage Precinct's Top 10 Most Wanted for felony parole violation. The officers went to the Tulip Grove Apartments on Lebanon Pike to look for Robert Peterson. He was taking his trash out as Officers Johnston and Stevenson approached his apartment. He was taken into custody without incident. Peterson was on parole for homicide. He has 12 years left to serve on his sentence.

A knock and talk by members of the Hermitage Crime Suppression Unit resulted in officers recovering 50 pounds of Graba, a form of the khat plant. It is a Schedule I drug if it is found within 48 hours of harvest, but drops to a Schedule IV drug after 48 hours of harvest. Users usually chew it or make it into a tea. Officers could see a large smoking pipe in plain view with several zip lock baggies full of the green leafy substance. The suspects were of Somalian descent.



**Khat confiscated by Hermitage CSU.**

## **South**

South Precinct officers captured three suspects, including a Nashville man out on bond for murder, in a robbery of the Mapco Express at 26-A Tusculum Road, January 5. Miles Jordan Armstrong, 19, of Harding Place, is charged with aggravated burglary. Armstrong was charged in July of last year with two counts of criminal homicide and two counts of attempted criminal homicide. He was out on \$200,000 bond.

Alex Sparrow, 20, of Cloverland Drive, Brentwood, and Brian Alan Martin, 17, of Crest Drive, Nashville, are also charged with aggravated robbery.

South Precinct officers responded to the 7:15 a.m. emergency call within two minutes. The suspect's Oldsmobile was spotted traveling northwest on Una-Antioch Pike. A police pursuit ended with the suspect's vehicle crashing into a tree at Nashboro Village Apartments. Thanks to the combined efforts of Hermitage Precinct officers, South Precinct officers, the K-9 Unit, the Special Operations Response Team, and Aviation, all three suspects were captured.

Officer William Whitworth spotted yet another out of state stolen vehicle at the Sunrise Motel at Plus Park and Murfreesboro Road. A knock and talk resulted in the arrest of Melvin Bilbro. The car was stolen in November in Lansing, Michigan.

The Flex Unit received a tip from a Domestic Violence detective that Humberto Vargas Nava had six outstanding warrants for his arrest. Flex went to his Turley Drive home and he was taken into custody without incident. Nava had two outstanding order of protection violation warrants, two contempt of protection order violation warrants, one harassment warrant, and one aggravated assault warrant. Nava also had a pending rape charge.

Officer Jason Mayo stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the within the vehicle. The driver consented to a search of his person. Officer Mayo found a pipe that also smelled strongly of marijuana. Officer Mayo then asked the man if there was anything illegal inside the vehicle. He told the officer, "Yes, there is a pound of marijuana behind the seat." Officer Mayo found nearly one pound of marijuana inside the vehicle and seized \$1,013.98 cash.

## **East**

Outstanding police work by East Precinct Officer Greg Lyons led the arrest of a 19-year-old armed robber minutes after he tried to holdup a Gallatin Pike convenience market January 16.

Joshua Whitworth, of Madison, and an accomplice entered Discount Tobacco at 4610 Gallatin Pike. One was armed with a shotgun, the other a pistol. The suspects ordered the six persons inside the store to move to one side. When market owner David Espino, 23, heard what

he thought was a gunshot, he pulled a pistol and opened fire. Both suspects ran from the market.

East Precinct officers blanketed the area. In less than 15 minutes, Officer Lyons spotted Whitworth walking in the 700 block of Broadmoor Drive and took him into custody. He subsequently admitted his involvement in the robbery.

Officer Broderick Jones stopped a vehicle because the temporary tag was not visible. The driver had a suspended license. Officer Jones requested that a K-9 unit come to the scene as he finished his paperwork on the citation. Officer Terry Burnett and his partner, Laz, arrived quickly. The K-9 "hit" on the vehicle and in particular on the rear passenger seat where a female had been seated. Officer Jones then requested a female officer come to the scene to search the backseat passenger who was found to be concealing 14 small bags of marijuana (21.9 grams) and over \$1000 cash in her clothing.

Officer Shane Fairbanks observed a vehicle in the James Cayce public housing development parked in a handicapped parking space. The car did not have handicapped tags. Officer Fairbanks ticketed the driver, who was sitting in the car, for parking in a handicapped space. Officer Fairbanks also requested that a K-9 unit come to the scene. Officer Mike Moultry and his partner arrived promptly. The K-9 "hit" on the vehicle. A probable cause search produced a felony amount of marijuana, 211 grams, from inside the vehicle. The driver and his juvenile passenger were charged with felony possession of a controlled substance for resale and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## **North**

The efforts of an off-duty North Precinct police officer led to the arrest of two robbery suspects Thursday morning, one of whom is an ex-convict who was recently released after serving time for armed robbery.

Officer Robert Nielsen was in the parking lot of 3167 Lebanon Pike at 9:10 a.m. when he heard a woman screaming in front of Cato's. John Orlando Fields, 27, of Cortland Street in Murfreesboro, had stolen the woman's purse. Officer Nielsen saw the suspect get into the passenger side of a silver Honda driven by Jennifer Rose Hurst, 24, of Robinson Drive in Smyrna.

Officer Nielson quickly got into his personal vehicle and requested assistance, providing dispatch with a description of the suspect's car, license number, and the direction they were traveling. He followed the suspects until Officer David Read was able to stop the Honda at Interstate 24 and Shelby Avenue. The victim was brought to that location and identified Fields and Hurst. Fields and Hurst are charged with robbery.



## **West**

Officers Robert Morris and Nick Falcone stopped two individuals on McMillan smoking crack cocaine. One of the individuals had a warrant for his arrest and was taken into custody. The other individual possessed 44 vials of assorted controlled medications inside a backpack. After intensive questioning, the officers were able to determine that Hayes had been at Baptist Hospital earlier in the evening and had stolen medications from the hospital's "CRASH CART". The carts are used when a patient goes into cardiac arrest. Multiple medications are needed by the doctor immediately to revive the patient. It is believed that Hayes was going to sell these drugs on the street. Hayes was charged with multiple felony offenses.

Officer Ed Escamilla attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding near 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Wedgewood Avenue. A short vehicle pursuit ended when the suspect bailed out of the vehicle near 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The suspect fled on foot and immediately dropped a plastic bag containing 28 grams of crack. Officer Escamilla picked it up and continued the foot pursuit. He captured the suspect and took him into custody without incident. The suspect was also carrying a small baggie of cocaine and \$2000 cash.

South Precinct detectives requested the West Flex Unit try to locate a home invasion suspect. Officer Shane Shetler and Sergeant Mikell Wiggs went to the suspect's grandmother's home. Sergeant Wiggs went to the back of the house. The suspect was running out the back door when he spotted Sergeant Wiggs and ran back inside the house. Sergeant Wiggs followed the suspect and took him into custody. A magazine clip was found on the suspect and the gun was found near the back door. Officer Shetler took the suspect to South Station where the suspect admitted to several other felonies. The suspect was booked on six outstanding felony warrants and for carrying a handgun as a minor. The same weapon had been used in several other crimes.

## **Central**

Officer James Vivrette attempted to stop the driver of a Chevy Impala on Spring Street. The pursuit ended on Lischev Avenue where the three suspects bailed from the stolen vehicle. Central officers did an excellent job of quickly setting up a perimeter and capturing two of the three suspects. One of the suspects had 32 grams of crack cocaine and nine grams of marijuana. Both suspects were charged with theft, evading arrest, and possession of a controlled substance for resale.

The Central Crime Suppression Unit, Central Flex, and members of Central B detail, all combined to conduct a reverse prostitution sting that led to several felony arrests in the area of North 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Oldham Street. These operations will continue, as needed, in the future. Several local business owners and employees came out to express their gratitude for the precinct's efforts.

Due to the cold weather, officers continue to conduct welfare checks on the homeless and offer them rides to shelters.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Police, Patrol, and Investigator of the Month for December 2006:**

**Patrol Officer of the Month**

North Precinct Officer Jeffrey Bauer

North Precinct Officer Michael Kent

**Police Officer of the Month**

Hermitage Precinct Officer Craig Christie

**Investigator of the Month**

Central Precinct Officer Nathan Clark

**The following officers were chosen Police, Patrol, and  
Investigator of the Year for 2006:**

**Field Operations Patrol Officer of the Year  
North Precinct Officer Danita Marsh**



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Officer Marsh, Nurse Brittany Hill, and Officer Marsh's mother, Vivian.**

**Field Operations Police Officer of the Year  
Hermitage Precinct Officers Cedric Connolly and Rob Morris**



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Officer Rob Morris, and Officer Cedric Connolly**

**Field Operations Investigator of the Year**  
South Precinct Detective David Achord



**Chief Ronal Serpas presents the Investigator of the Year Award to South Precinct Detective David Achord.**

**Investigative Services Bureau Investigator of the Year**  
Gang Unit Detective Matt Chance



**Chief Ronal Serpas presents the Investigative Services Bureau Investigator of the Year Award to Gang Unit Detective Matt Chance.**

## **West Precinct, Special Response Team, and the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force**

SWAT members assigned to the police department's Special Response Team (SRT) and members of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force captured two Nashville ex-convicts January 22 for their roles in a series of area bank robberies.

Sergeant Ed Groves, West Precinct, spotted Larry Roscoe McGlocklin, 56, of Marshall Street, driving his mini-van on Interstate 40 East. Thanks to Sergeant Grove's alert actions, McGlocklin was stopped by SWAT members at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Brandau Place near Centennial Park.

McGlocklin is charged federally with an attempted bank robbery in Inglewood and a bank robbery in Hendersonville, both January 11, with a bank robbery in Bellevue on January 16, and another Bellevue bank robbery January 22. McGlocklin's suspected accomplice in three of the cases, Alberto Ganac, 49, was arrested by SRT officers the same day in a different location. Both McGlocklin and Ganac were released from prison in July of 2006 after serving time for robbery.

## **Gang Suppression Unit**

Thirteen alleged members of the street gang called La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Tennessee on charges that they conspired to participate in a violent RICO enterprise responsible for killings and other violent crimes in Nashville. U.S. Attorney Craig S. Morford for the Middle District of Tennessee praised the cooperative partnership and outstanding efforts of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department's Gang Suppression Unit, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Department of Homeland Security, the Davidson County District Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Tennessee, and the Department of Justice's newly formed National Gang Squad.

"Criminal behavior by gangs in Nashville will not be tolerated, period," Chief Serpas said. "The incredible investigative work of the Metro Police Department's Gang Unit, with the assistance of our federal partners, is, without a doubt, making Nashville a safer place for all neighborhoods.

## **Neighborhood Watch Groups**

The number of Neighborhood Watch groups in all six precincts increased from 307 in 2005 to 348 in 2006.



On January 25, members of the Metro Police Department met with students from New Livingston Hall at Fisk University to address recent crimes in the area and to share information about safety, both on campus and in the neighborhood. About 25 students were present. The Metro Police Department was represented by Sergeant Connie Tripp, Sergeant Twana Chick, NRO President Janice Shaw, Officer Gerald McShepard, and Officer Kevin Guyton. The event was arranged by the Fisk administration and included the participation of security officers who work on campus and Fisk University representatives Sheila Peters, Barbara Murrell, Jason Meriwhether, Jacqueline Bumpus, and Marie Lang. The presentation lasted about 90 minutes, and included information ranging from steps the University currently has in place to improve campus safety and how to lessen your chances of having your vehicle burglarized. Ms. Shaw shared information with the students regarding the goals her neighborhood has reached through the cooperation of NRO with police and other agencies. Students were very receptive. The presentation was closed with Officer McShepard passing along information and offering packets concerning recruitment. Four persons showed an interest.

It is believed by all that this meeting will encourage communication between the students and the police. Barbara Murrell plans to institute a regular safety talk at the beginning of each semester. She and some others will meet next week with Chief Serpas and Chief Bishop regarding safety issues on campus.

## Blue Notes

### South Precinct

The South Station of the Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPd) was originally opened in 1973, and was located at 3718 Nolensville Road. It remained there until county expansion forced the MNPd to look for a larger building. In 1997, Chief Emmett Turner dedicated the new and current South Precinct located at 5101 Harding Place. Under the leadership of Commander Rick Lankford, the South Precinct serves all areas between I-65 and Murfreesboro Road, from the I-40/I-24 inner loop to the Rutherford/Williamson County lines. The Precinct currently has 106 patrol officers assigned to handle calls for service.

In October 2006 the South Precinct experienced a complete change of shift and Investigative component command. In essence, all four lieutenants were replaced during the department's transfer and promotion of numerous lieutenants. The newly assigned shift commanders were tasked by the incumbent Precinct Commander with developing and implementing new crime fighting strategies throughout the Precinct. All four lieutenants had worked together in the past, with two being newly promoted, and two veterans. A spirit of 100% cooperation was fostered immediately and the results indicated such. One of the primary initiatives was an attempt to serve as many as possible of the 10,000 plus outstanding criminal warrants that were listed to suspects with addresses in the South Precinct and had not yet been attempted service. This goal contained several included objectives. For unsuccessful attempts, the department's computer program "WARAUD" was updated with information that may be

helpful in serving the warrants at a future date at another location. Also, increased proactive police presence in residential areas, particularly apartment complexes, was intended and did cause a decrease in residential burglaries during times of police warrant service attempts.

In the previous nine calendar months of January through September 2006 there were 1,038 warrant service attempts, 4,758 total arrests, 507 felony warrants served, and 1,167 misdemeanor warrants served in the South Precinct. From October 1, 2006, until December 31, 2006, there were 4,758 warrant service attempts, 1,482 total arrests, 191 felony warrants served, and 528 misdemeanor warrants served. These attempts resulted in numerous arrests of, and in some cases, violent offenders. To summarize, in one-third of the duration of the previously measured period there was a significant percentile increase in arrests and warrants served due to the hard work and efforts of the personnel on all three details who passed the warrant packages (prepared by Directed Patrol personnel) on to the next shift after unsuccessful attempts. Currently, all newly issued criminal warrants in the South Precinct are attempted service within seven days of being issued. The backlog of older warrants that have never been attempted to be served is estimated to have decreased to less than 2,000.

Warrant service attempts are only one of the many parameters that are measured by the department to gauge the efficiency of patrol officer activity. The December 2006 report, indicates that the South Precinct was the leading Precinct overall in measured proactive enforcement for that month, including responding to the most calls for service, conducting the most field interviews, and executing the most warrant service attempts.

## **Background and Recruiting**

By Lt. Michele Donegan

Applicants have completed surveys at the last three civil service test dates regarding how they heard about the Metro Police Department. Overwhelmingly, applicants advised they heard about us through current MPD employees – meaning you are our number one recruitment tool. So when you are approached by perspective candidates inquiring about the ad, encourage them to view our Web site at [www.police.nashville.org](http://www.police.nashville.org) or call the Recruitment Office at 862-7341.

For those of you who are in a position that requires you to order business cards (M.P.D form 115), I would like to encourage you to choose “Join Our Department” for the reverse side of your card. (Choice #2) The back of your card would have the following information:

Join Our Department!

For Information

On How to Become a Metro Police Officer

Police Recruitment Unit

(615) 862-7341 or 1 888-638-7633

[www.police.nashville.org](http://www.police.nashville.org)

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Having this information on your business card is a great recruiting tool!

## **Congratulations:**

Officer Jason Moyer, East Precinct, and his wife Melanie, are proud parents of Gabriel Douglas, born January 19.

Officer Keith Stephens, South Precinct, and his wife, Jill, are the proud parents of Katie Nicole, born January 15. Lieutenant James Stephens and Detective Suzanne Stephens are the proud grandparents.

Officer Marshall Willis, Training, and his wife, Andrea, are the proud parents of Melanie Jo Ann, born January 23.



## **In Prayers:**

Officer Danita Marsh, North Precinct, as she continues her recovery.

Officer Joseph Haywood, East Precinct, as he continues his recovery.

Sergeant Don Adcox, South Precinct, as he recovers from surgery.

Detective Rob Carrigan, Sex Crimes, as his four-year-old son continues chemotherapy treatments.

## **Condolences:**

Mrs. Francis Biggs, mother of Jeanne Leitch, School Crossing Section, passed away January 24.

Mr. Joe Satterfield, father of Detective Danny Satterfield, North Precinct, passed away January 24.

Mr. Walter Johnson, retired Sergeant, passed away January 7.

Mr. Antonio Greer, nephew of Glendel Greer, Homicide Section, passed away January 14.

Mrs. Sue Toney, mother of Alice Tuberville, Records, and grandmother of Mathew Roccheitti, NCIC, passed away January 14.

Mr. Lindsey Swindle, uncle of Officer Steve Haines, Central Precinct, passed away.

Mr. James Leslie, evening shift Property Guard Supervisor, passed away.

Mrs. Bessie Drake, grandmother of Sergeant Kevin Steele, North Precinct, passed away.

**FYI:**

As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.

The Training Academy has issued "The Tactical Edge" to trainees for many years. We have always purchased new copies for each session so the trainees could use them for reference purposes while they were at the academy and could make notes, highlights, etc. Trainees were allowed to keep the books after graduation to reinforce their officer survival and patrol tactics skills once they became police officers.

As we began purchasing for Session 53, we discovered that the book is now out of print and the cost has increased dramatically. Our sources tell us that some discussions are underway for Calibre Press, the publisher, to resume printing. However, that does not help us for Session 53.

What Training is asking is for anyone who was issued a copy of the book that no longer needs it to please turn it in to the secretary's office at the precinct or the Training Academy. We will develop an internal process to track the books we get back so that there are enough copies to issue to trainees to accompany their DT/Confrontation Management training. Also, we will maintain copies that can be checked out to be used for refresher training, roll-call training, small unit training, etc.

Thanks in advance from the Academy Staff.

The new Promotional Register for sergeants was certified by the Civil Service Commission during its Tuesday, January 9, 2007, meeting. Because this was close to the February 1st annual rebid time, Chief Serpas and DCOP Bishop postponed the rebid for one month (the rebid will be effective on March 1, 2007). This was done so the rebid would be fair

to all personnel, with the newly promoted sergeants also bidding for their precinct and detail assignments as a sergeant.

**COMPSTAT** on Friday, February 23, 2007, will be at Lipscomb University, located at 3901 Granny White Pike. This is an excellent opportunity for faculty and students at Lipscomb to have a better understanding of the COMPSTAT process and see what we do each week to reduce crime in Nashville. SDD will keep you updated as to the location of COMPSTAT on their campus (the starting time will be the same), along with other logistical issues (parking, etc.).

The Fiscal Affairs office has moved to Suite 321 (formally Intelligence) of the CJC.

Police calendars for 2007 are on sale for \$10 each. The calendar features law enforcement officers from across the state including two of Metro Nashville's finest. Officers were photographed with Special Olympics athletes in sports clothes and in uniform. ALL proceeds go to the Special Olympics of Tennessee. Calendars can be purchased at the Field Operations Bureau office.

Metro Police annuals can still be ordered. Pre-ordering is available online at: <http://www.nashvillepolicehistory.com> Annuals will be in and distributed around the first of the year. Please see the Bicentennial Board for further information.

Another law enforcement family's life was shattered after the accidental self-inflicted shooting of a 6-year-old boy with his grandmother's unsecured duty weapon on January 16th, 2007. The Cook County, IL correctional officer "always trigger-locked her gun and removed the bullets" said her daughter, the boy's mother. But on Tuesday, the boy's grandmother forgot to take those precautions and 6-year-old Jaylen Parker, who played with toy guns at home, found the handgun in the glove box of his grandma's car and "became curious," fatally shooting himself in the face.

### Home Firearm Safety

The decision to maintain a firearm in the home is a serious, personal matter. Unlike passive safety devices, such as alarm systems, firearms used for home protection require significantly more involvement by the owner. Any added safety benefit that may be derived from a firearm depends in large measure on the owner's commitment to appropriate training and a clear understanding of safe handling and storage rules. Are your security concerns realistic and consistent with local crime rates? Do other adults in your household support the



decision to maintain a gun in the house? Are you required by virtue of your chosen profession to bring a firearm into your home for the security of the firearm? If anyone in your home will have access to the firearm, will they join you in a firearm training and safety program? What precautions will be practiced to safeguard children?

If you must have quick access to a loaded firearm in your home, you need to take special safety measures. Keeping a gun to defend your family makes no sense if that same gun puts your family members or visitors to your home at risk. Many home firearms accidents occur when unauthorized individuals, often visitors, discover loaded firearms that were carelessly left out in the open.

You must exercise full control and supervision over a loaded gun at all times. This means the gun must be unloaded and placed in secure storage whenever you leave the gun in your home or elsewhere. Secure ammunition separately.

Your most important responsibility is ensuring that unsupervised children cannot encounter loaded firearms. The precautions you take must be completely effective. Anything less invites tragedy and is a serious violation of your responsibility as a gun owner.

### Safe Storage of Weapons

Whether you store your weapon in your locker at work or at home, you must make sure that it is secure from unauthorized access and protected from damage. If there are children in your home, you must be particularly careful to keep your weapon secure.

Most states impose some form of legal duty on adults to take reasonable steps to deny access by children to dangerous substances or instruments. It is the individual gun owner's responsibility to understand and follow all laws regarding gun purchase, ownership, storage, transport, etc. If you choose to own a gun, you have a responsibility to set a positive example.

Opinions vary and circumstances differ: an officer living alone is clearly in a different situation than one with small children or teenagers in the home. However, even an officer living alone can have his or her home burglarized. Nevertheless, the same general guidelines apply to all situations:

§ Store firearms unloaded and locked up. A weapon safe is best, but a secure locked cabinet will do. At the very least, use a trigger lock or cable lock to make the weapon unusable. Keep the key on your person or in a safe place where children cannot get it.

§ Store ammunition locked up away from the weapon. That way, even if an unauthorized person gains access to the weapon, it is not immediately usable.

§ Store your weapon un-cocked and uncased. Leaving a weapon cocked can, over time, weaken the firing pin spring. Casing or wrapping a weapon tends to trap moisture and can lead to rust. If you intend to store the weapon for more than a few days, wipe it down with a lightly oiled cloth. Be sure to wipe off excess oil—only a very thin coat is needed.

§ Educate responsible adults in your home. Other responsible adults in your home should know where your weapon is kept, that it should always be treated as loaded (even if it is stored unloaded), and why it must be kept secure. Individual officers may or may not choose to give their family members more information. However, information about where firearms and ammunition are stored should not be shared with neighbors or other acquaintances.

### A Message for Children

Young people are naturally curious about firearms and, as a result, may be tempted to “play” with a firearm they find. If you have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in a gun's handling and use, explain that he or she must not touch a gun in your home, unless you are present and have given permission. If your child sees a gun outside the home, teach him or her the following:

1. Do not go looking for guns in your house or a friend's house. Do not let other kids look for guns in your house.
2. If you find a gun in your house, or anywhere else, STOP! Leave it alone. Don't touch it. Don't let anyone else touch it. Leave the area and be sure to tell an adult at once.
3. Even if a gun looks like a toy, don't touch it. Some real guns may look like toy guns, so don't take a chance. Leave the area and immediately tell an adult.
4. REMEMBER: IF YOU FIND A GUN, DON'T PICK IT UP. JUST LEAVE IT ALONE, AND GO TELL AN ADULT RIGHT AWAY!!!

The initial steps of "Stop" and "Don't Touch" are the most important. To counter the natural impulse to touch a gun, it is imperative that you impress these steps of the safety message upon your child.

In today's society, where adult supervision is not always possible, the direction to "Leave the Area" is also essential. Under some circumstances, "area" may be understood to be a room if your child cannot physically leave the apartment or house.

"Tell an Adult" emphasizes that children should seek a trustworthy adult – neighbor, relative, or teacher – if a parent or guardian is not available.

**We have made gun locks available before; please let us know if you need one.**

Capt. Mike Hagar  
Metro Police Training Academy  
2715 Tucker Rd.  
(615) 862-7617



**THERE ARE 1440 MINUTES EVERY DAY....  
CHOOSE TO MOVE FOR 30!**

### **CHOOSE TO MOVE**

**Why do we need 30 minutes of physical activity every day?**

Regular physical activity has been shown to reduce the risk of certain chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, and colon cancer. It is recommended that adults should do at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity every day.

What does moderate-intensity mean? When doing a moderate intensity activity, you will start to feel warm, your heart rate will increase, and your breathing will be heavier but you will still be comfortable talking. Activities such as walking briskly, yard work, or biking at a casual pace will get you started.

New Years Resolution: Choose to Move!! Try to get 30 minutes of Physical Activity in daily.

Source: <http://www.health.gov/DietaryGuidelines/dga2005/document/html/chapter4.htm>

By: Sarah Vaughn, VUMC Dietetic Intern &  
Ashley Broadrick, RD